

6
CLAIMS

1. A method of creating a pattern for a bead-inlaid plate using a computer, **characterized** by the steps of:

- providing a colour picture,
- 5 - converting the colour picture to a digital image file suited for electronic processing,
- showing on a monitor associated with the computer the picture that corresponds to the digital image file,
- selecting on the monitor, using a user input device of the computer, an area of the shown picture for which a pattern is to be created,
- 10 - selecting a format of a bead-inlaid plate,
- dividing the selected area of the shown picture into a grid of intersecting lines including squares of a uniform size, each of said squares corresponding to a bead on the bead-inlaid plate, so that the grid of intersecting lines also corresponds to the selected format,
- determining according to a predetermined algorithm for each square that colour among colours
- 15 available for beads which best represents or agrees with the colour of the square,
- showing on the monitor a picture of the selected area including the colour determined for the square in each square,
- changing on the monitor, using a user input device of the computer, at least one colour quantity for the picture of the selected area and/or changing the colour in individual squares, and
- 20 - finally printing a pattern including the selected colours for the bead-inlaid plate.

2. A method according to claim 1, **characterized in** that the colour quantities include lightness, colour saturation and colour scale.

3. A method according to claim 1, **characterized in** that the steps of selecting format and dividing the selected area include the substeps that an initial format is first selected, that thereupon the selected area is divided according to the initial format, that on the monitor a picture including a grid of intersecting lines drawn according to the initial format is shown, that on the monitor, using a user input device of the computer, the initial format is changed to a changed format, that thereupon the selected area is divided according to the changed format, these substeps being repeated until a desired format has been obtained.

30 4. A device for forming a pattern for a bead-inlaid plate, **characterized by** a computer including a receiving device for a digital image file suited for electronic processing, the computer including

- a unit for showing on the monitor associated with the computer the picture that corresponds to the digital image file,

- a unit for selecting on the monitor, using one of the user input devices of the computer, an area of the shown picture for which a pattern is to be formed,
- a unit for selecting a format of a bead-inlaid plate,
- a unit for dividing the selected area in the shown picture in a grid of intersecting lines including 5 squares of a uniform size which each correspond to a bead on the bead-inlaid plate, so that the grid of intersecting lines also correspond to the selected format,
- a unit for determining, according to a predetermined algorithm, for each square that colour hue among colour hues available for the beads which best represents or agrees with the colour hue in the square,
- 10 - a unit for showing on the monitor a picture of the selected area including the colour determined for each square in each square,
- a unit for selecting on the monitor, using a user input device of the computer, at least one colour quantity for the picture of the selected area and/or changing the colours in individual squares, and
- a unit for finally printing a pattern including the selected colours for the bead-inlaid plate.